

Community Enterprises PL12 Chair's Report

July 2022

A lot has been going on over the last couple of years, & I felt now was a good time to provide a detailed account of where we are now.

It's been a busy month for us consolidating our plans, with a focus on opening up some of the activities in the Community Kitchen. We have some great things happening in the Community Kitchen, working with other organisations and groups, helping to tackle social isolation, loneliness, food poverty, financial problems and mental health issues. Some of the groups we are working with include Link into Learning, Health Centre PPGs, Social Prescribers from both health centres, Baptist Church, Foodbank, Battling On, Man Down, and Your Voice.

With the appointment of a Community Kitchen manager, The Community Kitchen is now starting to extend its opening hours, and become a vibrant community space. We're only open limited hours, but some of the activities we are now able to provide are;

The Kitchen is open when the Community Fridge is open, providing hot meals for Fridge users who are struggling. We ask for a "pay as you feel" donation, which helps take the stigma away from food need.

Chatter & Natter, on Wednesday mornings; organised by Mandy, the social Prescriber from the 2 Saltash surgeries; an opportunity to discuss mental health issues, & Mandy can signpost.

Peer support groups Your Voice (for ladies) and Man Down (for men).

Weekly Dementia Voice drop-in café.

Digital Inclusion on Mondays, to teach people how to make technology work for them.

Book Club, last Wednesday of every month (Books bought from the Bookshelf every month).

Crafty Sessions every Wednesday evening. Often hosted by local crafters, these sessions have been really well received.

Tresorys Kernow activities; provided opportunities for people to get involved.

Feast Night; last Saturday of every month, using rescued food. Guest chefs, & a different theme each month.

Plans for the next few months include more evening craft/ sewing sessions, Trauma Dogs sessions, more activities aimed at tackling loneliness, & starting some cookery lessons.

We would love to have the opportunity to show you round the Community Kitchen; please feel free to call in when you're in Saltash, have a behind-the-scenes tour, and enjoy a cuppa & cake made with rescued food.

The Community Fridge continues to be well-used, providing food for anyone who will use it, & stop it being wasted. Our Mobile Larder operates every Monday, following 2 routes identified with the Foodbank and housing associations, to try & reach people unable to access the Fridge tables.

Community Transport is now fully operational, with some excellent trips planned. The weekly Shopper Hopper brings people into Fore St for a couple of hours every Wednesday.

Our Community shop at 4 Fore St now supports over 30 local crafters & start-up artisan businesses, selling a lovely selection of locally-made goods.

All Dementia Voice groups (Singing, Veterans, Café) are well supported, with number of users rising.

We have welcomed two new Directors onto our Board; Melanie joins us as Marketing Director, Cathy joins us as Shop Director. Both have a wealth of knowledge & experience & we are all looking forward to working together.

We now have a full-time Community Kitchen manager, Chris, who will be helping us provide activities & nutritious food for our customers. Chris began his hospitality career as a chef at the Holland Inn, before spending many years in the police force.

We have a great volunteer team, & have a number of new volunteers who have recently joined us; some are people we helped get through the Covid crisis, who now want to give something back. We are currently looking for volunteers to help with key roles including Dementia Voice and funding applications, please contact us if you or anyone you know would be interested.

We have now completed our accounts for the 2021/22 financial year, we have incurred a significant loss due to substantially reduced earnings through Covid, and the additional costs of providing the community support during Covid (Fridge, emergency food parcels, mobile etc). This loss has been covered by capital reserves, so we do need to work hard to break even for the 2022/23 financial year. As a Community Interest Company, we have significant overheads to pay, including rent, rates, insurance, power etc.

Community Enterprises PL12 is the working name for Saltash Gateway CIC. We've come a long way since our inception 16 years ago, when a group of councillors, business people & PL12 residents got together with the aim of helping to make Saltash a better place to live, work or enjoy. I'm looking forward to our dedicated team working together to continue to achieve that aim.

Jo Baskott

Chair